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March 3, 2010

Public Service Commission of South Carolina **Docket No. 2009-489-E**
Att: Docketing Dept.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

I am outraged concerning the price hike SCE&G is requesting. We won't be receiving a Cost of Living raise, Tanked Investments yet SCE&G wants a 9.5% Rate Hike!

Some Facts you need to consider:

- **SCE&G** was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.
- New rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average **SCE&G** customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.
- For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For **SCE&G**, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate boost, if granted, would put it at \$130.
- **SCE&G** has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.

Please consider the everyday consumer and how we are trying our hardest to survive in this economy. We shouldn't have to worry about paying our electric bills, that are already very high, compared to other power companies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Miriam B Smith
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Cross SC ~~29436~~
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